

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Expandable polystyrene particles containing a blowing agent for forming a foam container in a molding process and coated with a coating composition, said coating composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a liquid part and a solid part; said liquid part ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

a) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of a liquid polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight ranging from about 200 to about 800; and

said solid part ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

b) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of polyolefin wax; ~~and~~

c) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of a metal salt of higher fatty acids selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, calcium, and aluminum salt of stearic, lauric, and myristic acid; and optionally

d) a solid polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight of from about 900 to about 10,000; and

e) a fatty bisamide or fatty amide;

wherein said polyolefin wax of component b) is polyethylene wax having a particle size ranging from about 6 microns to about 60 microns and an average molecular weight of about 650 to about 1000, and

wherein said foam container is constructed to hold foods and liquids and wherein said coating composition

improves at least the leakage resistance and rim strength of said foam container.

2. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 1 wherein the amount of a) is 0.01% to about 0.80% by weight based on the weight of the particles; the amount of b) is 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and the amount of c) is 0.01% to about 0.60% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

Claims 3 - 17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 2 wherein said coating composition comprises: a) polyethylene glycol in an amount of 0.30% by weight based on the weight of the particles; b) polyethylene wax in an amount of about 0.40% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and c) a metal salt of higher fatty acids in an amount of about 0.105% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

Claim 19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 1 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate and zinc stearate.

21. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 20 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is zinc stearate.

Claims 22 - 24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 1 wherein said polyethylene glycol of a) ranges in an amount from about 0.05% by weight to about 0.80% by weight, based on the weight of the particles and has an average molecular weight of 400.

26. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 1 wherein said components of said solid part of said coating components are dry mixed together and then dry blended with said thermoplastic particles.

Claims 27 and 28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 1 wherein said particles are coated with said coating composition in an amount ranging from about 0.005% to about 2.0% by weight, based on the weight of the expandable polystyrene particles.

Claims 30 - 48. (cancelled)

49. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles containing a blowing agent for forming a foam container in a molding process and coated with a coating composition, said coating composition consisting essentially of a liquid part and a solid part; said liquid part consisting essentially of:

a) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of a liquid polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight ranging from about 200 to about 800; and

said solid part consisting essentially of:

b) a solid polyethylene glycol having an average molecular weight of from about 900 to about 10,000;

c) greater than 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the particles, of a metal salt of higher fatty acids selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, calcium, and aluminum salt of stearic, lauric, and myristic acid; and optionally

d) greater than 0.01% by weight based on the weight of the particles, of polyolefin wax; and

e) a fatty bisamide or fatty amide;

wherein said polyolefin wax of component b) is polyethylene wax having a particle size ranging from about 6 microns to about 60 microns and an average molecular weight of about 650 to about 1000, and

wherein said foam container is constructed to hold foods and liquids and wherein said coating composition improves at least the leakage resistance and rim strength of said foam container.

50. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 49 wherein the amount of a) is 0.015 to about 0.80% by weight based on the weight of the particles; the amount of b) is 0.01% to about 1.0% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and the amount of c) is 0.01% to about 0.60% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

51. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 50 wherein said coating composition comprises: a) polyethylene glycol in an amount of 0.30% by weight based on the weight of the particles; b) polyethylene wax in an amount of about 0.40% by weight, based on the weight of the particles; and c) a metal salt of higher fatty acids in an amount of about 0.105% by weight, based on the weight of the particles.

52. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 49 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate and zinc stearate.

53. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of Claim 52 wherein said metal salt of higher fatty acids is zinc stearate.

54. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 49 wherein said polyethylene glycol of a) ranges in an amount from about 0.05% by weight to about 0,80% by weight, based on the weight of the particles and has an average molecular weight of 400.

55. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 49 wherein said components of said solid part of said coating components are dry mixed together and then dry blended with said thermoplastic particles.

56. (New) Expandable polystyrene particles of claim 49 wherein said particles are coated with said coating composition in an amount ranging from about 0.005% to about 2.0% by weight, based on the weight of the expandable polystyrene particles.